

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for his indication that Claims 5,, 6, 9-18, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 46, and 48 are merely objected to, but will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 5, 9, and 36 are presented in independent form by this amendment.

Objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

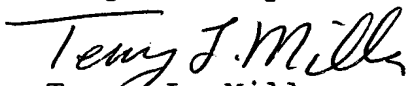
Claims 3 and 4 appear to be objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the verb tense is asserted to not agree with its subject. Respectfully, this objection is somewhat confusing because at line 1 of Office Action paragraph 3, claims 3 and 4 are referred to. However, at line 3 of this same paragraph, Claims 2 and 3 are referred to. Considering each of Claims 2, 3, and 4, it is seen that "include" or "includes" appears only once in each Claim. In Claim 2, "includes" modifies the singular "means", while in each of Claims 3 and 4, "include" modified the plural "image elements". It is believed that the tense of the verb is correct in each instance to modify the subject of the verb. However, if the Examiner still finds fault with any of these Claims, the Applicant will be happy to consider any necessary amendment suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103

Identified Claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 34, and 35 are canceled. Claims 5, 9, and 36 are rewritten into independent form. Of the remaining dependent Claims, Claims 7, 10, 16, 18, 40, 42, 43, 45, and 47 are amended simply to change their dependency so that these dependent Claims depend now from an appropriate one of the new independent Claims. The other dependent Claims pending in the application will depend indirectly from an appropriate one of the new independent Claims. Accordingly, the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 are avoided, and the remaining Claims (5-18, and 36-48, as amended) of this application have been indicated to be allowable.

In view of the above, both reconsideration of the Claims pending in the subject application and an early favorable indication of patentability are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Miller
Reg. No. 29,568
Attorney for Applicants

TLM:pr

Enclosure: 6 sheets of photocopy drawing Figures as submitted
and approved in parent application Serial No.
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POMS, SMITH, LANDE & ROSE
2029 Century Park East, 38th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: (714) 263-8250
Facsimile: (714) 263-8250